

CONGRATULATING JAMIE DEAN
LUCAS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Jamie Dean Lucas, a friend and constituent from my congressional district who will be representing Kentucky in the upcoming NBC reality series "The Biggest Loser." Jamie will compete against contestants, representing each of the 50 States, in a nationally broadcast weight loss and fitness challenge.

Jamie is an especially generous and talented member of my community. By taking on this important challenge, Jamie is giving himself and his family a new lease on the future. In fact, Jamie is already well on his way toward his ultimate weight loss goal. I have no doubt that he will soon again enjoy some of his favorite activities like tennis and horseback riding. I am also sure that his commitment to health will give him many more happy years to enjoy with his children and future grandchildren.

Weight loss is a very difficult endeavor. Jamie's steady spirit and unyielding determination represent the very best of what it means to be a Kentuckian. I am proud that Jamie will be representing my district before a national audience and prouder still to call him my friend.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jamie Dean Lucas, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for all that he has accomplished in the past few months. His remarkable progress is a true inspiration to many of us in Kentucky and, very soon, for millions of television viewers across the Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF THE NEW JERSEY
STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT
ASIAN-AMERICAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous public service of the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Asian-American Advisory Committee. With Americans of Asian heritage making up an increasingly large proportion of our population, both in New Jersey and across the Nation, it is important that law enforcement have a strong relationship with the Asian-American community.

There are an estimated 14 million U.S. residents with Asian heritage. That's 5 percent of the U.S. population. They are by no means of a monolithic culture—with backgrounds from Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan, and elsewhere. Asian-Americans have lent this diversity to our national melting pot, enriching America with their contributions to music, food, design, literature, entertainment, and more.

Asian-Americans are our neighbors, our local business owners, our teachers, our elect-

ed officials, and also our police officers and first responders. The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Asian-American Advisory Committee helps to bridge the gap both for Asian-Americans in the law enforcement family and in the larger population. Its members engender a greater understanding of the special needs of the Asian-American community.

I am proud to work with them to make New Jersey's neighborhoods safer and bring New Jersey's communities closer, and I am proud to support their efforts to become a national organization.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5970, ESTATE TAX AND EXTENSION OF TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2006 AND H.R. 4, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight we should have had an opportunity to help lift 6.6 million Americans out of poverty by passing the first minimum wage increase in nearly a decade.

As it is, it's an absolute disgrace that the minimum wage has been stagnant at \$5.15 since 1997.

Republican inaction has led to the fact that the minimum wage is at its lowest level in 50 years. In fact, if the minimum wage had just kept up with inflation since 1968, it would have been \$8.88 in 2005. That is still, quite frankly, a pittance for what people need to live.

But this increase is in jeopardy by a cynical, political ploy on the part of the House Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this sham minimum wage legislation contains "poison pills." Namely, the incorporation of the estate tax cut and further tax cut extensions into the minimum wage bill.

Even worse, under this sham Republican legislation 1.8 million workers will have to wait until June 2009 before the minimum wage reaches \$7.25.

Once again, the Republican majority is proving how much contempt they have for the working families of America.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should be voting on a clean minimum wage bill that will provide a meaningful increase to working Americans. Its only fair.

TRIBUTE ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to one of Maryland's premier institutions of higher learning—the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)—as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Located on what was once a cow pasture, the university has risen to astonishing heights in a very short time. When UMBC first opened

in 1966, it had only 750 students and three buildings. Today, the university offers first-rate education and research opportunities to more than 11,000 students, while retaining the personal contact typically found at a small liberal arts college.

In recent years, the guidance of President Freeman Hrabowski has led the university to new heights. UMBC's unique combination of undergraduate focus and graduate research reflects the dedication to balance that has led UMBC to become one of the top public universities in the nation.

The nationally recognized Meyerhoff Scholars Program, which Dr. Hrabowski co-founded, is among the most successful undergraduate diversity programs in the nation. UMBC has one of the highest rates of minority students pursuing advanced degrees in medicine and science of any school in the United States. UMBC also has been ranked first nationally in the total number of undergraduate chemistry degrees given to African-Americans.

In 40 years UMBC has become one of the nation's top independent public research universities. The numerous accomplishments of the university are all the more impressive because they have come so rapidly. In fact, UMBC is one of the youngest universities ever to be honored with a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and in recent years UMBC has led every university in the nation in undergraduates receiving Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarships.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the achievements and success of UMBC, one of the bright stars in American higher education.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEVADA
STATE COLLEGE AND DR.
CONNIE CARPENTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, faculty and administrators of Nevada State College's School of Nursing in Henderson, Nevada, for their tremendous achievements with their accelerated nursing program. Their achievements are a reflection of their commitment to our community. Dr. Connie Carpenter, Dean of the School of Nursing, has been instrumental in Nevada State College's early success as Nevada's newest institution of public higher education. Her leadership, commitment, and vision serve as a testimonial to the success of the college's nursing program.

Nevada State College first welcomed students in August of 2002, it has been charged with the mission to meet the needs of students who are interested in bachelor's degrees in our state's much-needed fields such as nursing and education, as well as in other disciplines in the arts and sciences. Since that time, Nevada State College has committed resources, professors, and vision to ensure that their mission statement becomes a reality. For faculty and students, that dream has been achieved. On Saturday, August 26, 2006, twenty nine students graduated from the college's Accelerated Nursing Program, a success which reflects the college's commitment